

Indiana State Board of Health Facility Administrators

July 2012 Edition



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Helpful Links:

NAB: www.nabweb.org
IHCA: www.ihca.org
IAHSA: www.iahsa.com
HOPE: www.hoosierownersandproviders.org

What's Happening in your Profession?

The renewal deadline for HFA is **August 31, 2012**.

Don't forget your CEUs!

Disciplinary Action:

A list of board disciplinary actions may be found on our license litigation system at <http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/pla-litigation/>

Free online licensure look-ups may be obtained at <https://extranet.in.gov/WebLookup/Search.aspx>. This is a real time database and is the best resource for accurate data.

2012 Meeting Dates/locations:

- ❖ Tuesday, July 31
- ❖ Tuesday, September 25
- ❖ Tuesday, November 27

All meetings are held in IPLA Conference RM W064, Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Continuing Education Opportunities:

August 2

[Continence Management Webinar](#)

August 21 & 22

[2012 IHCA Fall Education Conference!](#)

La Merigot at Casino Aztar
Evansville, IN

September 26, 2012

[Fire Safety and Survey Prep: Are You in Compliance?](#)

Holiday Inn Express,
Edinburgh, IN

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January 1, 2013 SNF Medicare Cuts Approach \$800 Million: Study

A study conducted by Avalere Health, LLC, concluded that skilled nursing facilities (SNF) can expect Medicare reimbursement cuts in the \$800 million range effective January 1, 2013.

The Washington, D.C. consulting firm projected the 2% across-the-board sequester cut to Medicare programs mandated under the Budget Control Act of 2011 will reduce reimbursement to SNFs by \$782.3 million in 2014.

In addition, Avalere estimates that SNFs will be forced to eat \$3 billion in “bad debt” costs over the next decade. (Prior to the February passage of the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012,” Medicare reimbursed SNFs for 100% of bad debt for dual-eligible beneficiaries and 70% for other Medicare bad debt. Under the Act, the reimbursement rate for all Medicare bad debt is reduced to 65%).

When these reductions are combined with the substantial Medicare cuts contained in the Affordable Care Act and the 11.1% SNF reimbursement cut imposed October 1, 2011 by CMS, Avalere projects that skilled nursing facilities face \$48 billion in funding losses over the next decade.

As part of its analysis, Avalere conducted a survey of SNF providers to get a sense of the impact of these reductions. Those survey responses indicated the Medicare cuts will result in at least 20,000 staff layoffs and the cancellation of approximately 400 nursing facility expansions or renovations and the corresponding loss of the 20,000-25,000 new jobs those projects would have generated. Among the other survey findings:

- 36.8% of the 234 respondents expect to lay off direct care staff;
- 37% of the 227 respondents indicated they expect to indefinitely postpone or cancel the hiring of direct care staff;
- 74.2% of the 213 respondents plan to either freeze wages or reduce raises;
- 47.8% of the 209 respondents intend to either reduce benefits or require employees to pick up a greater share of the benefit costs;
- 23.5% of the 238 respondents plan to significantly delay or cancel the opening of new facilities and/or the expansion of existing facilities.

(LeadingAge Wisconsin E-News, 5-18-12)



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State Smoking Ban Effective July 1, 2012

In this year's legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed a statewide smoking ban. The Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the prohibition on smoking as codified at Indiana Code 7.1-5-12. The Indiana State Department of Health will follow the ATC's determinations for interpreting the statute. Certified health care facilities that are federally regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must also comply with CMS provisions.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Commission website (www.in.gov/atc) is the primary site for implementation of the state law. The website includes frequently asked questions and offers sample signage. If a question is not addressed in the frequently asked questions, then questions can be posted on the ATC website and they will be reviewed by ATC. The frequently asked questions section is updated on a continual basis.

Smoke Free Indiana is a website created by the ISDH to provide information about the new law. The ISDH implementation website is available at smokefreeindiana.isdh.in.gov. The content includes information about the law, FAQ, and information on 1-800-QUIT-NOW. The *Breathe Easy Indiana*

website (www.breatheindiana.com) is designed to assist Hoosiers in understanding the new smoking laws. The site is intended to assist businesses in implementing the new law. A business education kit will be available through the site. The business education kit includes website information, window clings, posters, coasters, palm cards, table tents, a brochure on the new law, a checklist for businesses to help them prepare for the new law, a letter from Dr. Larkin, and Quit Now resources.

The Quit Now Indiana Program provides assistance to Hoosiers in quitting tobacco use. The Quit Now Indiana Program is found at www.quitnowindiana.com.

IHCA Participates in AHCA/NCAL Congressional Briefing

Last week, a group of Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA) staff and representatives traveled to Washington, DC to join more than 400 long term care professionals participating in the American Health Care Association /National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill.

The IHCA delegation met with eight of Indiana's eleven members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. They shared AHCA's message about the importance of protecting funds that are critical to providing access to high quality care. The sector has continually faced threats, including the recent proposal to reduce the provider assessment threshold to 5.5 percent.

In addition to addressing hot-button issues, AHCA/NCAL representatives emphasized the importance of keeping person-centered care at the core of the conversation. Through programs such as the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative, unveiled in early 2012, the association has challenged its membership to improve specific areas of care, including hospital readmissions, staff stability, customer satisfaction, and the off-label use of antipsychotic medications.